

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12050 031536Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /127 W
-----008394 031942Z /72

R 031535Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8663
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EG
SUBJ: FIRE AT AMOCO'S RAS SHUKAIR FACILITY

REF: CAIRO 11792 ET AL

1. DAVID WILKIE, GENERAL MANAGER OF GULF OF SUEZ PETROLEUM COMPANY (AMOCO'S PRODUCTION COMPANY IN EGYPT), BRIEFED EMBOFF MAY 3 ON FIRE AT RAS SHUKAIR TERMINAL. AS OF MAY 2 BOTH FIRES IN STORAGE TANKS 305 AND 306 HAD BURNED THEMSELVES OUT. PRODUCTION, WHICH WAS SHUT IN MOST OF FRIDAY AND ALL DAY SATURDAY RESUMED APRIL 30 AT LEVEL OF 110,000 BPD. BY MAY 2 PRODUCTION WAS UP TO 216,000 BARRELS PER DAY WITH MORGAN FIELD STILL SHUT IN. PLANS ARE TO HAVE MORGAN IN PRODUCTION LATER THIS WEEK. FIRE DID NO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO ANY OF FACILITIES AT RAS SHUKAIR. WILKIE REMARKED THAT FAVORABLE WIND CONDITIONS HAD BEEN MAJOR FACTOR IN PREVENTING SPREAD OF FIRE. TWO EGYPTIANS WHO WERE WORKING IN AREA SUFFERED SLIGHT INJURIES, BUT THERE WERE NO FURTHER CASUALTIES AS RESULT OF FIRE.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 12050 031536Z

2. WILKIE DESCRIBED ASSISTANCE WHICH COMPANY RECEIVED FROM BOTH EGYPTIAN ARMY AND CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS AS EXCELLENT. BOTH GROUPS SENT THEIR BEST FIRE FIGHTERS TO HELP EXTINGUISH BLAZE. MINISTER OF PETROLEUM HILAL AND EGPC CHAIRMAN RAMZI LEITHY BOTH SPENT TWO DAYS AT RAS SHUKAIR DIRECTING FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS.

3. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY INFORMATION, FIRE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY IGNITION OF PICKUP TRUCK WHICH WAS ILLEGALLY DRIVEN WITHIN FIRE CONTROL AREA AT ABOUT 2115 HOURS ON APRIL 27. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF FOUL PLAY AT THIS TIME. WILKIE PROMISED INFORM US OF FINDINGS WHEN FINAL REPORT IS ISSUED. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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